

object to be processed which is softened at a process temperature of said object to be processed.

22. (Twice Amended) A placement table structure used for a processing apparatus performing a predetermined process on an object to be processed in a process chamber in which a vacuum can be formed, the placement table structure including:

a placement table having a heater unit therein so as to heat said object to be processed;

a cooling block joined to the placement table and having a cooling jacket which cools said placement table;

a heat resistant metal seal member configured and arranged to seal a heat transfer space formed between said placement table and said cooling block; and

heat transfer gas supply means constructed and arranged to supply a heat transfer gas to said heat transfer space,

wherein a surface of a member contacting said heat resistant metal seal member is covered by a soft metal layer made of a melting point material which is softened at a process temperature of said object to be processed.

*See the attached Appendix for the changes made to effect the above-amended claims.*